



Provisional programme

British-German Alumni dialogues: 'collaborating on lessons from the pandemic'

Monday 7 March 2022

1730-1930 GMT / 1830-2030 CET

In association with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the British Embassy in Berlin.

Context

March 2022 will mark two years since Britain and Germany first imposed restrictions on citizens to mitigate against the spread and impact of COVID-19. Since then, there have been numerous new variants and a range of vaccines have been developed. There have also been significant social and economic impacts and unprecedented government interventions. While COVID-19 continues to affect hundreds of people in both Britain and Germany, narratives around COVID are changing as the pandemic moves to an endemic. As Britain and Germany seek to move on from the immediate crisis of the pandemic, it is important to identify lessons of the pandemic and consider some of the longer-term challenges for both nations and opportunities for collaboration; this conversation will focus on health, public trust and inequality.

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Monday, 7th March

**1720-1730
GMT/1820-1830
CET**

Participants join

**1730-1745 GMT/
1830-1845 CET**

Welcome and introduction

Rich Roberts
Programme Director, Wilton Park

**1745-1825 GMT/
1845-1925 CET**

1. Participation Health and Public Trust

This session will focus on the impact of COVID on health and public trust. What has the pandemic highlighted about the resilience of the British and German health systems. What can each learn from the other to increase future resilience? How has public trust and compliance changed since the start of the pandemic? Do governments need to increase public trust and compliance and if so how could they?

Dr Stefan Etgeton
Senior Health Expert at Bertelsmann Stiftung

Professor Gerry Stoker

Professor of Governance within Politics & International Relations, the University of Southampton

**1825-1830 GMT/
1925-1930 CET**

Break

**1830-1900 GMT/
1930-2000 CET**

2. What shared lessons can the UK and Germany take from each other moving forward? (breakout groups)

This session will involve three breakout groups each considering the following questions:

1. Are British and German Health systems prepared for the next pandemic? What needs to change?
2. How can British and German governments respond to increases in disinformation and conspiracy theories? What works to build trust and can UK strategies be applied to German contexts and vice versa?
3. How has the pandemic exacerbated inequalities? Do inequalities need to be addressed in order to strengthen public trust and increase health resilience?

**1900-1920 GMT /
2000 -2020 CET**

3. Report back from breakout groups

Brief feedback from breakout groups. What are the next steps to take this agenda further forward?

**1920-1930 GMT/
2020-2030 CET**

4. Summary

Summary of the discussions.

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

Enquiries about the programme to Rich Roberts, Programme Director
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